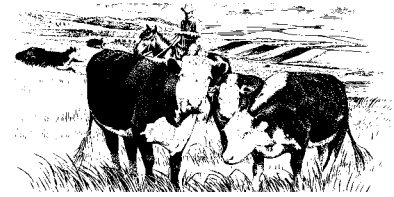


California Livestock Review



Frequency: Monthly
Released: May 25, 2005

(USPS 598-250)
VOL. 27 NO. 5



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Cattle On Feed	1
Farm Prices — Prices Paid — Hay Stocks	2
Livestock Slaughter	3
Milk Production	4

CALIFORNIA CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in California feedlots totaled 500 thousand head on May 1, 2005, unchanged from both last month and May 2004. During April, placements of 64.0 thousand head were 15 percent below the previous year. Marketings of 59.0 thousand head were 12 percent below April of 2004. Other disappearance totaled 5.00 thousand head.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED UP 3 PERCENT

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on May 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above May 1, 2004 and 1 percent above May 1, 2003. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent above 2004, but 11 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.57 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340 thousand, 600-699 pounds were 225 thousand, 700-799 pounds were 500 thousand, and 800 pounds and greater were 595 thousand. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent below 2004 and 9 percent below 2003. This is the lowest total of fed-cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 90.0 thousand during April, 7 percent below 2004, but 43 percent above 2003.

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 1,000+ CAPACITY FEEDLOTS, SELECTED STATES AND UNITED STATES

State	Number On Feed April 1 1/			Placed During April		Marketed During April	
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Thousand Head						
Arizona	293	323	110	31	31	27	24
California	495	500	101	75	64	67	59
Colorado	970	1,020	105	150	120	170	150
Idaho	255	240	94	45	39	47	37
Iowa	415	455	110	57	55	53	53
Kansas	2,360	2,340	99	355	375	440	425
Nebraska	2,210	2,260	102	320	320	420	380
New Mexico	105	113	108	14	19	11	16
Oklahoma	330	325	98	51	52	68	70
South Dakota	205	205	100	26	27	28	31
Texas	2,640	2,620	99	415	500	480	480
Washington	185	159	86	26	19	35	30
Other States	300	310	103	35	39	45	46
UNITED STATES	10,763	10,870	101	1,600	1,660	1,891	1,801
State	Other Disappearance During April 2/		Number On Feed May 1 1/		2005/2004		
	2004	2005	2004	2005			
	Thousand Head					Percent	
Arizona	2	2	295	328	111		
California	3	5	500	500	100		
Colorado	10	20	940	970	103		
Idaho	3	2	250	240	96		
Iowa	4	2	415	455	110		
Kansas	35	30	2,240	2,260	101		
Nebraska	10	10	2,100	2,190	104		
New Mexico	3	2	105	114	109		
Oklahoma	3	2	310	305	98		
South Dakota	3	1	200	200	100		
Texas	15	10	2,560	2,630	103		
Washington	1	1	175	147	84		
Other States	5	3	285	300	105		
UNITED STATES	97	90	10,375	10,639	103		

1/ Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fed for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates, and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlot to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		April 2004	March 2005	April 15, 2005	April 2004	March 2005	April 15, 2005
		Dollars					
All Hay, Baled 2/	Ton	120.00	128.00	135.00	88.90	89.10	96.90
Alfalfa, Baled 2/	Ton	126.00	133.00	141.00	93.00	96.40	103.00
Hogs 2/ 3/	Cwt.	---	---	---	47.40	51.20	50.20
Cows 2/	Cwt.	48.50	49.40	53.80	50.60	55.00	57.10
Steers and Heifers 2/	Cwt.	87.00	92.60	93.80	88.90	95.50	95.60
Calves 2/	Cwt.	115.00	121.00	127.00	117.00	135.00	139.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt.	35.00	43.00	---	36.70	48.20	---
Lambs 2/	Cwt.	91.00	103.00	---	100.00	114.00	---
Milk Cows 4/	Head	1,550.00	---	1,750.00	1,580.00	---	1,770.00
All Milk Wholesale 2/	Cwt.	17.28	14.22	14.40	18.10	15.60	15.40

1/ The estimated prices in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers and are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Previous month revised to monthly average.

3/ Price includes barrows, gilts, and sows.

4/ Animals sold for dairy herd replacement only. Prices published January, April, July and October.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, PACIFIC REGION AND UNITED STATES 1/

Commodity	Unit	PACIFIC REGION 2/		UNITED STATES	
		April 2004	April 15, 2005	April 2004	April 15, 2005
		Dollars			
Alfalfa Meal	Cwt.	18.50	19.20	14.90	15.40
Bran	Cwt.	18.40	18.20	14.80	15.00
Corn Meal	Cwt.	15.10	14.50	9.84	9.57
Cottonseed Meal, 41%	Cwt.	20.60	22.80	18.40	17.20
Dairy Feed, 16%	Ton	207.00	192.00	218.00	197.00
Soybean Meal, 44%	Cwt.	24.60	25.40	19.60	16.10

1/ Prices shown represent composite average prices paid by farmers for all grades, classes and method of sale.

2/ Includes California, Oregon and Washington.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of hay on California farms as of May 1, 2005 totaled 215 thousand tons. This is 12 percent of the December 1 stocks and was 30 percent below May 1, 2004.

United States May 1 stocks of hay on farms totaled 27.7 million tons. This was 24 percent of the December 1 stocks and 7 percent above May 1 of the previous year.

HAY STOCKS ON FARMS

State	December 1			May 1		
	2002	2003	2004	2003	2004	2005
	1,000 Tons					
California	1,840	2,086	1,724	200	306	215
Arizona	203	280	250	45	55	35
Nevada	882	857	741	167	121	80
Oregon	2,550	2,357	2,366	340	371	362
Utah	1,210	1,495	1,383	175	279	300
UNITED STATES	102,978	111,027	114,294	22,013	25,947	27,708

CALIFORNIA COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER

California's production of red meat during April 2005 totaled 114.9 million pounds (dressed weight), 9 percent below last month and 1 percent below April 2004. This figure includes slaughter in Federally-inspected and State-inspected plants, but excludes slaughter done on farms. In April 2005, the average live weight of cattle slaughtered was 1,308 pounds; calves 172 pounds; and hogs 243 pounds.

U.S. RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in April, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in April 2004.

Beef production, at 1.89 billion pounds, was 3 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, down 5 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was 20 pounds more than the previous year at 1,220 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.0 million pounds, 7 percent below April a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 61.6 thousand head, down 13 percent from April 2004. The average live weight was 353 pounds, 23 pounds above last year.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.44 million head, 2 percent below April 2004. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year at 271 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.5 million pounds, was down 11 percent from April 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 221 thousand head, 14 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from April a year ago.

January to April 2005 commercial red meat production was 14.6 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 12 percent, pork was down slightly from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

April 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and four Saturdays, while April 2005 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and five Saturdays.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, APRIL 1/

Species and Location	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	Thousand Head		Thousand Pounds		Pounds	
CATTLE						
California	104.1	104.2	134,922	136,216	1,296	1,308
U.S. Total	2,697.7	2,560.1	3,237,188	3,122,560	1,200	1,220
CALVES						
California	7.3	7.3	1,048	1,253	143	172
U.S. Total	70.7	61.6	23,318	21,703	330	353
SHEEP & LAMBS						
California	---	---	---	---	---	---
U.S. Total	256.2	220.8	34,836	31,077	136	141
HOGS						
California	212.5	207.7	52,180	50,379	246	243
U.S. Total	8,653.2	8,443.8	2,317,191	2,285,987	268	271
RED MEAT	April 2004	March 2005	April 2005	Apr. 05 Apr. 04	Apr. 05 Mar. 05	
	Million Pounds			Percent		
California	115.6	126.2	114.9	99	91	
U.S. Total <u>2/</u>	3,712.8	3,878.9	3,622.3	98	93	

1/ Farm slaughter excluded.

2/ Revised March 2005 data.

**For information on part-time jobs collecting agricultural data in your local area,
please call 1-800-851-1127.**

CALIFORNIA MILK PRODUCTION

California milk producers produced 3.19 billion pounds of milk in April 2005. This was 1 percent below March 2005, but 4 percent above April 2004.

Monthly milk per cow averaged 1,820 pounds, 25 pounds less than in March 2005, but 30 pounds more than a year ago.

MILK PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES

Month	CALIFORNIA 1/						Total Milk		UNITED STATES 1/ 2/					
	Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/		Receipts 5/		Milk Cows 3/		Milk Per Cow 4/		Milk Production 4/	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds				1,000 Head		Pounds		Million Pounds	
Jan.	1,701	1,739	1,755	1,770	2,985	3,078	2,993	3,074	8,044	8,083	1,624	1,640	13,061	13,258
Feb.	1,706	1,742	1,675	1,635	2,858	2,848	2,856	2,843	8,051	8,076	1,531	1,519	12,329	12,270
Mar.	1,710	1,748	1,815	1,845	3,104	3,225	3,100	3,221	8,059	8,095	1,661	1,702	13,387	13,779
Apr.	1,716	1,751	1,790	1,820	3,072	3,187	3,070		8,063	8,107	1,636	1,679	13,194	13,612
May	1,720		1,830		3,148		3,144		8,064		1,692		13,641	
June	1,724		1,755		3,026		3,021		8,083		1,607		12,988	
July	1,729		1,780		3,078		3,076		8,096		1,623		13,143	
Aug.	1,733		1,775		3,076		3,075		8,102		1,601		12,970	
Sept.	1,737		1,715		2,979		2,974		8,104		1,533		12,426	
Oct.	1,740		1,770		3,080		3,077		8,103		1,583		12,824	
Nov.	1,741		1,700		2,960		2,956		8,102		1,531		12,404	
Dec.	1,741		1,775		3,090		3,087		8,097		1,610		13,037	

1/ Revised for March 2005.

2/ Twenty-three state total.

3/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

4/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

5/ Milk receipts are from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Dairy Marketing and Milk Pooling branches.
Excludes on-farm usage.